

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 21, 1999  
MAG Office, Suite 200, Saguaro Room  
302 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

George Pettit, Gilbert, Chairman	Karen Shurko, Goodyear
Desmond McGeough, Avondale	*Horatio Skeete, Litchfield Park
*Joe Blanton, Buckeye	Dan Hansing, Mesa
*Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek	Mark Wheaton for Neil Urban, Maricopa County
Bob Pazera, Chandler	Jenifer Corey, Peoria
*Leonard Rivera, El Mirage	Fred Osgood, Phoenix
Geir Sverdrup, Fountain Hills	Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
*Tina Notah, Gila River Indian Community	*Sharon Sargent-Flack, Surprise
*Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend	Atis Krigers, Tempe
Ricardo Toris, Glendale	*Robert Tatro, Youngtown

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Kohn, Avondale	Heidi Pahl, MAG
Susan Abbott, Bureau of the Census	Rita Walton, MAG
Jim Howard, Bureau of the Census	Shiloh Thatcher, Maricopa County
Wayne Hatcher, Bureau of the Census	Matt Holm, Maricopa County
Kyle McMaster, Chandler	Remy Autz, Phoenix
Gino LaScala, Gilbert	Shawny Chadwell, Queen Creek
Jon Powell, Gilbert	Foster Burton, Retired
Hamid Arshadi, Gilbert	Scott Miller, RPTA
David DeLaTorre, Gilbert	Kristie Leshinskie, Sun Health Corp.
Harry Wolfe, MAG	Neil Calfee, Tempe

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Pettit at 10:02 a.m.

2. Call to the Audience

No requests were received from members of the audience to address the MAG POPTAC.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998

It was moved by Harry Higgins, seconded by Atis Krigers and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of November 5, 1998.

4. Report from Census Bureau Local Government Partnership Specialist

Susan Abbott thanked MAG staff members for their help at the census kickoff meeting on January 20, 1999. Ms. Abbott then announced that she has been given a new role and that she may not be attending future POPTAC meetings. She noted that someone from the Census Bureau would be attending the meetings.

Jim Howard from the Census Bureau stated that approximately 125-150 people attended the census kickoff meeting. He stated that all positions for recruiting have been closed except for listers. Mr. Howard stated that he hired 400 people and is on budget for the Block Canvas Operation.

George Pettit asked what information the Census Bureau is using in their block canvas. Mr. Howard said they are using 1990 block data and the most recent Post Office updates. He added that the Census Bureau is aiming for 100% accuracy.

Geir Sverdrup asked when jurisdictions outside the blueline would receive their address files. Wayne Hatcher stated that two thirds of the State was address listed in the Fall of 1998. That data is now being inputted for areas outside the blueline. Mr. Hatcher estimated that the Address List Review 99 materials would be ready to send out to jurisdictions in February 1999.

Harry Wolfe announced two other important dates. He stated that on January 27, 1999 at South Mountain Community College from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. there would be a Census 2000 Rollout Meeting. Mr. Wolfe mentioned that the Director of the Census Bureau, Ken Prewitt, would be in attendance along with Susan Lavin, Director of the Denver Regional Office. He also noted that on January 29, 1999 a Congressional hearing was scheduled for 1:30 p.m at the Phoenix City Council Chambers. Mr. Wolfe stated that Jim Bourey would give testimony at this hearing. Mr. Wolfe reported that MAG will provide copies of the agendas from the meeting and the hearing.

5. Local Update of Census Addresses Program

Harry Wolfe provided an update on the Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) Program for Census 2000. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Census Bureau held a LUCA Training Workshop for jurisdictions in the Address List Review (ALR) Area in December 1998. Mr. Wolfe noted that at the workshop a Census Bureau representative stated that ALR 99 is different from LUCA because it requires identifying discrepancies in the number of housing units by block rather than updating addresses. He also mentioned that questions which came out of this workshop were forwarded to the Denver Regional Office of the Census Bureau. In addition, Harry Wolfe noted that Jim Bourey forwarded a letter to Robert Marx of the Census Bureau in Washington expressing concern with the change in direction with ALR 99. The response from Richard Marx stated that ALR 99 recipients would have a chance to review detailed and updated addresses.

Mr. Wolfe mentioned the three items that Jim Bourey would emphasize on his next visit to Washington to obtain a more accurate census:

1. Using permits issued to predict new units in place on April 1, 2000
2. Conducting a post census local review
3. Looking for other options to ensure we account for growth

Harry Wolfe reported that MAG would like Census Bureau staff to be aware of new developments and new addresses in Maricopa County.

Remy Autz explained that a year ago the City of Phoenix submitted changes on the TIGER Improvement Program (TIPS) to the Census Bureau and the majority of these changes were not made. Mr. Autz stated that he wants Census Bureau confirmation that his changes were incorporated.

George Pettit noted that early confirmation that Census Bureau has made changes to the LUCA is necessary.

Geir Sverdrup expressed concern with the quality of Census Bureau data and the process that the Census Bureau is using. He stated that the short 42 day process for reviewing address files is a major concern for Fountain Hills and other areas outside the blueline.

Debbie Kohn echoed the comments of Geir Sverdrup, adding that a compressed time frame and less staff make it difficult to complete ALR 99. She stated that ALR 99 involved essentially the same work as LUCA but in half the time frame.

6. Statistical Areas Program

Matt Holm reviewed the important dates of the Statistical Areas Program (SAP). He announced that they are on schedule with the project.

Shiloh Thatcher explained that they are assigning attributes to 1990 blocks and will be providing files to the Census Bureau in electronic format. She said that they are basically taking the information that the cities gave them, assigning it to block level and then providing the data to the Census Bureau in table readable format.

George Pettit asked if the County was experiencing any problems with data that was submitted by the cities. Matt Holm said that they were not experiencing any problems.

Geir Sverdrup asked to receive a copy of the maps for Fountain Hills to check the maps.

Debbie Kohn asked why some communities are not identified on the handout titled "Census 2000: Statistical Areas Program". Matt Holm replied that those cities did not have SAP changes.

Harry Wolfe asked if the City of Surprise provided splits. Matt Holm said yes, Surprise provided changes and that Maricopa County is currently working on those changes.

Mr. Wolfe mentioned that we want to ensure that we provide splits so that the Census Bureau does not make splits for us.

7. Census Transportation Planning Package

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Census Bureau is requesting that Metropolitan Planning Organizations that intend to participate in the Census Transportation Planning Package (CTTP) supply them with updated Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) boundaries by summer. Harry Wolfe stated the importance of aggregating data to the TAZ level when running the socioeconomic and transportation models. Mr. Wolfe announced that MAG will be looking at TAZ's and defining where there is a need for new TAZ's. Harry Wolfe announced that MAG will be meeting with member agencies to determine new TAZ boundaries.

Mr. Wolfe noted that changes to TAZ boundaries should be consistent with block group and census tract

boundaries to the extent possible. He noted, however, that TAZ boundaries have certain requirements that must also be met that are different from Census Bureau criteria. He stated that TAZ boundaries follow major streets or planned streets.

Mr. Wolfe reported that POPTAC will be requested to approve changes to Traffic Analysis Zones.

8. Building Completion Status Report

Harry Wolfe reported that February 1, 1999 is the due date for information from the fourth quarter 1998. Mr. Wolfe also pointed out the new format for providing permit completion data that is Y2K compliant.

Dan Hansing asked if the City of Mesa should be providing suite numbers or building numbers. Harry Wolfe said yes, it is important to have unit numbers. Dan Hansing reported that Mesa issues one master permit for an apartment complex and when the complex is built in stages that means that some building permits go through in the fourth quarter and some in the first quarter. Ms. Walton stated that if one permit has 20 units we need to think of a way to number these units.

George Pettit said that from a GIS standpoint, numbering the apartment units is important for tracking purposes.

9. Meeting Schedule for 1999

Harry Wolfe announced that the meeting times for 1999 are the third Thursday of every month except for the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated that a meeting will be held every month due to Census activities and that workshops can be held instead of formal committee meetings if necessary.

Debbie Kohn asked if it would be advantageous to start another Committee, like the Special Census 1995 Committee, to handle Census 2000 issues. Harry Wolfe responded that the MAG Director and Management do not want to create more committees or meetings. MAG managers suggested that MAG POPTAC be the forum for discussing Census 2000 issues.

Rita Walton said that if the Committee feels they need to meet more frequently it could be arranged.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

